

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8329

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CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2126

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJ: NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP

REF: WELLINGTON 2099

1. DEFEAT OF FORMER PM JOHN MARSHALL AS LEADER OF
OPPOSITION NATIONAL PARTY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. PARTY
CAUCUS WILL VOTE JULY 9 TO CHOSE NEW LEADER AND DEPUTY
LEADER.

2. BY FAR STRONGEST CONTENDER TO REPLACE THE GENTLE MARSHALL
IS BOB MULDOON. WHAT PARTY OPPOSITION THERE IS TO HIM
CENTERS AROUND HIS ASSERTIVE PERSONALITY AND HIS PENCHANT
TO SPEAK HIS MIND ON ANY TOPIC AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
IF NAMED LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MULDOON CAN BE
EXPECTED TO TAKE THE KIRK GOVERNMENT TO TASK MUCH MORE
REGULARLY THAN WAS MARSHALL'S TENDENCY.

MULDOON CAN BE EXPECTED TO SCORE DEBATING POINTS IN
THESE EFFORTS AND HIS ENERGETIC ATTACKS ARE CERTAIN TO
HIGHLIGHT THE GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULTIES WITH
INFLATION AND LABOR UNREST. WHILE MULDOON'S AGGRESSIVE
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STYLE MAY OFFEND SOME, HIS ASSUMPTION AT THIS TIME OF THE

OPPOSITION LEADER ROLE PROBABLY REFLECTS A NATIONAL PARTY
CONSENSUS THAT MULDOON HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF LEADING
THE OPPOSITION TO VICTORY SEVENTEEN MONTHS FROM NOW.
BIO DATA ON MULDOON WAS FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN
OCTOBER 1973. AN UPDATE WILL BE FORWARDED SHORTLY.

3. CHOOSING THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MAY PROVE
TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT THAN CHOOSING THE LEADER.
BEST BET AT THE MOMENT IS BRIAN TALBOYS, FORMER MINISTER
OF INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND OVERSEAS TRADE. TALBOYS IS
A MODERATE INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL MUCH IN KEEPING WITH
THE NATIONAL PARTY IMAGE. HE IS GENERALLY CONCEDED TO
HAVE PRIME MINISTERIAL QUALITIES. ALSO IN THE RUNNING
ARE LANCE ADAMS-SCHNEIDER, JOHN GORDON AND DAVID
THOMSON. ALL SERVED AS MINISTERS IN THE LAST
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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